Welfare scheme for emigrant workers

1102. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two years after Government announced a slew of measure to ensure protection and betterment of emigrant worker, not one of the proposals has been implemented yet;

(b) whether it is a fact that despite the significant contribution by emigrant workers in terms of remittances from abroad several proposals like smart card project, Overseas Manpower Corporation (OMC) and formation of Welfare Committee etc. are still in the proposal state; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to implement the announced proposals?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) Several measures have been taken from time to time to ensure the protection and welfare of emigrant workers. With effect from 1st Feb. 2006, a revamped Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojna-2006 (PBBY-2006) has been implemented. This insurance scheme provides a higher insurance cover of Rs. 5 lakh to the emigrants, medical cover of Rs. 50,000/ and legal expenses cover of Rs. 25,000/-

In addition, comprehensive amendments to the Emigration Act, 1983 to make the emigration process simple and transparent, promote orderly & humane emigration and to ensure better protection and welfare of the workers are underway.

Several other measures to streamline the emigration process and modernize the offices of Protectors of Emigrants and simplification of the procedure for emigration are also underway.

New pension scheme

1103. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a new pension system to employees who have joined Government service from 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the date of its launch; and

(c) in what manner this system would safeguard the interests of employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCESAND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) Yes, Sir. With effect from January 01, 2004, a defined contribution pension scheme is mandatory for all new entrants to Central Government service, except to the Armed Forces, at the first stage, replacing the existing system of defined benefit system.

(b) and (c) Government proposes to have legislative framework providing, *inter-alia,* a statutory Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFDRA) entrusted with the responsibility of promoting and ensuring the orderly growth of the pension sector. To safeguard the interests of the subscribers, penalties are proposed for non-compliance with the regulatory provisions. The New Pension System is already in place with effect from 01.01.2004.

Abolition of SSC

†1105. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
MS. SUSHILA TRIYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to close Staff Selection Commission;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of employees engaged in SSC alongwith annual expenditure incurred on their pay and other works; and

(d) the decision taken by Government about future of these employees in the post enclosure scenario of SSC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present the sanctioned strength of the Staff Selection Commission is 515. The total expenditure incurred by the Staff Selection Commission in the year 2005-06 was 18.05 crores.

(d) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.